

1 Finally, the auditor concluded that if we were
2 simply to move San Quentin and proceed with the county's
3 vision for that site, that the net cost could be as high
4 as 337 million dollars to the State.

5 That assumes that you need two prisons to
6 replace one, which I would suggest is not a fair
7 assessment.

8 She also concluded that San Quentin -- the
9 operating costs of San Quentin are, roughly, ten million
10 dollars per year, higher than a comparable facility.

11 If my math is correct, that tells me that even
12 under those unreasonable costs of -- the net cost of 337
13 million dollars to the State, the State would be ahead,
14 if this new facility lasted more than about 34 years.

15 Given that San Quentin has been here for 150
16 years, I would assume the new facility would last more
17 than 34 years.

18 Finally, I would simply say that I know that
19 we're a long way into the process here. But I am urging
20 you and, in particular, I am urging the Governor, who
21 has the ultimate authority here, to intervene and to go
22 back to the drawing board and to examine alternative
23 locations;

24 To make the best economic decision and
25 investment for the State of California because it is

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1 clear to me, it is clear to many of my colleagues in the
2 legislature, it is clear to people at the local level
3 and it is clear to the State Auditor that the Department
4 of Corrections has not done its homework.

5 I would urge you to do that. Thank you.

6 MR. JAKOBS: Thank you.

7 MS. DANIELS: Thank you. Next we have Steve
8 Kinsey, Marin County Board of Supervisors.

9 Is Steve here?

10 MR. KINSEY: Good evening. Thank you very
11 much. Steve Kinsey Marin County Board of Supervisors,
12 currently the President of the Board of Supervisors;
13 also the supervisor representing the district that
14 includes San Quentin Prison.

15 We appreciate you coming to Marin County this
16 evening for this discussion. I think that it's
17 important for you to know that we in Marin County
18 understand that the question is not whether the State
19 needs to improve housing for its condemned population.

20 It does need time to improve housing for its
21 condemned population. The issue for Marin County is
22 whether San Quentin is the right place to expand
23 condemned housing within the prison system.

24 And it is the wrong place in our view.

25 We are very concerned that a decision that

1 would move forward with expansion of Death Row at San
2 Quentin and the housing of the condemned population will
3 be a decision, the impacts of which will last for over
4 100 years.

5 And that will foreclose many regional
6 opportunities that could be shared with the use of this
7 site in the future. And for those reasons and others,
8 we are very concerned.

9 The State Auditor, as was clearly identified by
10 Assembly Member Nation, in their evaluation of the
11 Department of Corrections' analysis found it
12 significantly incomplete so that -- so much so that it
13 was unable to determine whether this, in fact, would be
14 the right location or not.

15 And we think that it's critically important
16 that an adequate analysis be done of meaningful
17 alternatives to this site before a quarter billion
18 dollars is spent here in an activity that will impact
19 this site for over one century.

20 We believe that the EIR has not adequately
21 analyzed the alternatives, particularly, we reject the
22 assumption that it would take two prisons to replace one
23 prison.

24 We saw no indication of any kind of continued
25 use of San Quentin for portions of the prison population

1 that are there and the relocation of the condemned
2 population.

3 And we think that's a very viable alternative
4 that could be considered by the State and should be
5 addressed through the environmental impact report.

6 We also are concerned about the many
7 environmental impacts associated with lighting, noise
8 and visual impacts.

9 And there was no consideration of the impacts
10 of the expansion as it would relate to the State's own
11 ecological reserve, the Corte Madera marsh, which is
12 immediately across the Corte Madera Creek estuary from
13 the western portion of this site.

14 We are extremely clear that this approach to
15 housing the condemned population will, in fact, have
16 substantial operating cost premiums to the Department of
17 Corrections each and every year, not only for the
18 maintenance of existing facilities but also for the
19 substantial incentives and stipends that are needed to
20 attract workers that will have to come from as far away
21 as the Central Valley on a regular basis in order to
22 work here.

23 Tens of millions of dollars per year times the
24 numbers of years this facility is in place would be more
25 than offset by looking for an alternative location.

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1 And, finally, there is no real discussion of
2 what would happen at this location in 20 years when this
3 prison expansion is filled.

4 And we think that the EIR needs to clearly
5 identify to us what would be the requirements and how
6 they would be fulfilled on this site, if this is, in
7 fact, the only site that the Department of Corrections
8 intends to house condemned prisoners at such time as
9 this facility is complete.

10 We look forward to working with you to create
11 an environmental document that accurately reflects the
12 impacts that this project would have.

13 We are clear in our own minds and we hope to be
14 able to use this process to convince the State that
15 there are meaningful alternatives to address the real
16 issue you're trying to address and that those
17 alternatives do not include the expansion as proposed.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MS. DANIELS: Thank you. Do we have any other
20 elected officials here that would like to speak?

21 MS. BARBOUR-HAYDEN: Yes, I would like to
22 speak. I'm elected as vice-president of the Point San
23 Quentin Village Association Board of Directors.

24 My name is Frances Barbour-Hayden. I live in
25 the closest community to San Quentin Prison. And we

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1 have been there as long as the prison has.

2 While the village has diverse opinions about
3 whether or not the CIC should be built, we do have
4 concerns about it being built and I would like to state
5 what our concerns are.

6 MS. DANIELS: Sure.

7 MS. BARBOUR-HAYDEN: First of all, we would
8 like to see no increase of traffic on Main Street, as
9 it's currently saturated at this point.

10 And it's also eroding. So we would like to see
11 no increased traffic on Main Street. And for those who
12 are not familiar, San Quentin Village -- Point San
13 Quentin Village is right outside the east gate of the
14 prison.

15 Secondly, no construction trucks on Main Street
16 whatsoever. They must use the west gate. Thirdly,
17 reduction of light pollution; fourth, construction hours
18 run from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

19 And fifth, we ask that some focus on the
20 esthetic and visual impact of the new buildings be
21 considered so that the design is congruent with existing
22 historical landmarks.

23 With that said, we do prefer the stacked design
24 over the -- for the smaller footprint of the land.

25 One subject that we're deeply concerned with

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1 in San Quentin Village at this point is the traffic
2 saturation on East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and
3 Highway 580 as well.

4 All three of them are currently gridlocked.
5 My husband sometimes says that he lives in San Quentin
6 island because he can't get out. And that's a deep
7 concern to us.

8 What are you doing to address the traffic
9 concerns? It seems to me that over time, more and more
10 of the employees of the prison are going to have to come
11 from outside of the County, especially if you build a
12 condemned facility that takes away the on-site housing.

13 That's a very big concern to us. And we
14 haven't seen those questions addressed fully.

15 Additionally, I also represent some other
16 organizations. I serve on the Ferry Passenger Advisory
17 Committee. I'm a charter member. So I know they're
18 looking at the transit village as possibly an
19 environmental impact of the needs of the community.

20 And also, for dredging concerns, what the cost
21 would be for relocating the Larkspur Ferry terminal to
22 the deep water site and also the need of the County,
23 long-range, for transit.

24 That is a concern as well. I work for the
25 Marin County Bicycle Coalition. We're the part of

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1 building the pedestrian and bicycle master plan and
2 transportation plan, master plan for the County.

3 So we're concerned about transportation in the
4 environment, greatly.

5 And, finally, I'm a member the Citizens
6 Advisory Committee for San Quentin State Prison. I'm
7 supposed to be a conduit between the community and the
8 institution.

9 So it's very important to me that I understand
10 all of these elements but also to speak on behalf of the
11 community, that society as a whole, philosophically, I
12 wonder about putting the needs of the tax paying, law
13 abiding citizens behind the needs of those that aren't
14 and to represent the community at large and what your
15 priorities are over time.

16 San Quentin State Prison originally was not in
17 a metropolitan area. And why was that chosen to be far
18 away? Has our philosophy changed?

19 So that's all I have to say.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. DANIELS: All right, thank you. Since we
22 don't have any more elected officials, I would like to
23 see if there are any public agencies here? -- Federal?

24 Anybody from the Federal Government
25 representing a Federal agency like to speak? -- anybody

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1 from the State of California?

2 No.

3 Now, we can go to the County. Did you give us
4 a speaker card?

5 MR. DAWSON: Yes.

6 MS. DANIELS: State your name for us.

7 MR. DAWSON: My name is Dan Dawson. I'm Senior
8 Planner for the Marin County Community Development
9 Agency.

10 The County will be submitting a detailed letter
11 with our comments on the draft Environmental Impact
12 Report.

13 Our review has revealed several major
14 deficiencies that render the draft environmental impact
15 report fundamentally inadequate such that meaningful
16 public review and comment has effectively been
17 precluded.

18 Our chief concerns are the project description
19 is inconsistent with notice of preparation, project
20 description, nor is it consistent throughout the EIR.

21 It best characterizes the myth and confuses the
22 full extent of the underlying real project being
23 considered by the Department of Corrections.

24 And this includes what is happening with the
25 space vacated by the current condemned inmates.

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1 The statement of project objectives is too
2 narrowly defined to allow an understanding of the real
3 scope of the project and appear to be directed at
4 unreasonably limiting the consideration of project
5 alternatives.

6 The draft EIR uses various inconsistent
7 shifting and are confusing environmental setting
8 baselines to measure impacts throughout the topical
9 sections of the EIR.

10 It also fails to discuss inconsistencies
11 between the proposed project and the applicable general
12 plans, the regional plans as mandated by CEQA and
13 supporting government Code provisions for presentation
14 to local jurisdictions to concede determination with
15 applicable plans.

16 Required studies and environmental evaluations
17 by relevant regulatory agencies have not been completed
18 to adequately disclose the full extent of the potential
19 project impacts as required by CEQA.

20 Mitigation recommended by the EIR includes
21 instances of deferred mitigation involving future study,
22 development and disclosure of future mitigation after
23 project review approval, contrary to the requirements of
24 CEQA and relevant case law.

25 Correction of these deficiencies will

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1 necessarily require the addition of substantial new
2 information and studies, including revisions to the
3 project description and evaluation of additional new
4 impacts and alternatives in order for the EIR to be
5 legally adequate.

6 And in such instances, CEQA requires that the
7 draft EIR is required to be revised and re-circulated as
8 the new draft Environmental Impact Report with the same
9 notice and comment period as the original.

10 With the conflicts between the project
11 description and the notice of preparation and the EIR
12 re-circulation of the notice of preparation for review
13 and comment will be needed to be able to proceed with
14 the preparation and re-circulation of the draft EIR.

15 Like, I said, the County will be submitting
16 comments in more detail. Thank you.

17 MS. DANIELS: Thank you, Dan. Dan, are those
18 written comments that we could have a copy of what you
19 just read to us?

20 MR. DAWSON: Those will be submitted to you.

21 MS. DANIELS: Next, we're going to go to
22 organizations next. And next we have Allen -- well, we
23 have Teresa Hennessy.

24 MS. HENNESSY: Good evening. My name is Terry
25 Hennessy and I am the Chair of the Marin Economic

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1 Commission.

2 We're a ten-member panel appointed by the
3 Marin County Board of Supervisors to promote economic
4 vitality in Marin County.

5 Some of our key functions are to provide the
6 County decision-makers with appropriate tools and a
7 framework to determine the fiscal and economic impacts
8 of industries and new projects;

9 To serve as a forum for discussion and to
10 address environmental issues that affect business and
11 business issues that affect the environment;

12 To target new business, which provide
13 employment opportunities for Marin residents, diversify
14 and strengthen the economic base and contribute to the
15 region's quality of life.

16 I have been asked by the Commission to address
17 some of our concerns as they relate specifically to the
18 San Quentin draft Environmental Impact Report.

19 The draft EIR has not sufficiently defined the
20 project or what the project is in its totality, as
21 required by State law.

22 It discusses the Condemned Inmate Complex but
23 does not address the implications for the current
24 condemned facilities to be vacated, other than they will
25 be backfilled with Level II Inmates.

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1 What about staffing and safety concerns?

2 The draft EIR does not use figures for
3 projected inmate population or staffing needs. As a
4 result, different analyses supporting the draft EIR's
5 findings are invalid because they do not use the same
6 baseline information.

7 The draft EIR contradicts itself in stating
8 that there is sufficient employment base locally and an
9 ample housing supply, yet 49 percent of the current
10 employees at San Quentin commute from Solano County and
11 beyond the other eight Bay Area counties.

12 Further, the economic data supplied, such as
13 median home price, is irrelevant because it is
14 significantly out of date.

15 With the 2004 median home price in the Bay Area
16 above \$450,000 for every county except Solano, which is
17 \$377,000, even someone at the top step of the
18 Correctional Officer position of \$4,885 per month plus
19 the \$175 resident bonus would only be able to afford a
20 home in Solano County.

21 This would indicate that for the new staffing
22 at San Quentin, workers would endure substantial
23 commutes through one of the most congested corridors in
24 the state.

25 Using the faulty data, assumes that new staff

1 will be sufficiently dispersed throughout the region
2 and, therefore, not be a significant impact on regional
3 roadways is illogical and attempts to obfuscate the real
4 impacts of this project.

5 It is also clear that having to pay \$170 a
6 month bonus to correctional officers to work at San
7 Quentin further indicates that the statements that there
8 is sufficient local employment base and housing
9 affordable to a prison worker is false.

10 Cumulatively, this is hardly a
11 less-than-significant impact and needs to be addressed
12 with valid data.

13 The DEIR mischaracterizes the San Quentin
14 Vision Plan alternative by mixing information with the
15 Department of General Services study conducted in 2001.

16 While it may appear there are similarities
17 between the two, there are significant policy statements
18 in the Vision Plan to address potential impacts that are
19 not contemplated in the DGS study.

20 Further, the Vision Plan addresses significant
21 housing and transportation issues facing not only Marin,
22 but the Bay Area as a whole

23 Thus, the level of impact identified in the
24 DEIR for the Vision Plan alternative is false.

25 We have concluded that the draft EIR is

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1 inadequate in its analysis and needs to be edited and
2 re-circulated so the public knows what project is
3 actually being proposed so they can provide appropriate
4 comments.

5 Thank you for your attention.

6 MS. DANIELS: Thank you.

7 Next, we have Allen Jones. He is with the
8 California Clemency Organization. And then after Allen
9 speaks, we're going to take about a five-minute break
10 and we'll reconvene after Allen Jones.

11 MR. JONES: I am Allen Jones. And that is
12 spelled A-l-l-e-n. And I am the author and proponent
13 of the future ballot measure called California Clemency
14 Boards.

15 What this would do is, in my opinion,
16 drastically reduce the prison population in the State of
17 California.

18 How it would work is five citizens, who are
19 registered voters, say, in Marin County, would sit on a
20 panel and they would judge whether a person who stole a
21 pizza and was sentenced to 25 years, whether that was
22 just.

23 And if they disagree, they would have the power
24 to release this individual.

25 I heard in your presentation, you talked about

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1 the worst case scenario. What about the best case
2 scenario?

3 If we had a smaller prison system, we wouldn't
4 need to build a new 220 million dollar Death Row
5 facility but we could use current facilities elsewhere,
6 more modern, to transfer these condemned inmates.

7 I can see, right after this is built, people
8 are going to be saying, "Look at this beautiful building
9 next to the oldest prison in the state."

10 Then you're going to be back in the same room
11 for an 800 million dollar project and I think that that
12 has not be considered.

13 My ballot measure -- it's a long shot --
14 because I am convinced that the State of California --
15 that we are putting some people in prison who don't need
16 to be there.

17 I heard in a January hearing on parole reform
18 that an inmate was sent -- I mean, a person was sent
19 back to prison because he had a no contact order with
20 the police.

21 What was his violation? What was his contact?
22 He was pulled over in his car legally for not wearing
23 his seat belt.

24 Now, I could multiply that number by the
25 thousands. And I'm saying that we need to look at the

1 fact of how we can minimize prison facilities, not
2 expand them.

3 And I honestly believe that if we really look
4 at this, we're going into the wrong direction.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. DANIELS: Thank you. Okay, we're going to
7 take about a five-minute break and then we'll reconvene.

8 (Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

9 MS. DANIELS: Okay, folks, we're going to
10 reconvene. If we could get everyone to come back?
11 Thank you. Okay, folks, we're going to reconvene and
12 get started.

13 We're going to continue with the organization
14 folks that are representing organizations.

15 And next I have Roger Roberts and he's with
16 Marin Conservation League. Is he still here? -- all
17 right.

18 MR. ROBERTS: My name is Roger Roberts. I am
19 with the Marin Conservation League. We have another
20 speaker here tonight, who will also comment from the
21 Marin Conservation League.

22 I want to first say that these are only
23 preliminarily remarks. We will be sending you a letter.

24 But we did want to take this opportunity to
25 speak with you in this public hearing.

1 We find in reviewing this draft EIR, that while
2 the analysis may be adequate, within the strict
3 guidelines of CEQA, we find it far from exhaustive.

4 And I will speak to some of the issues relative
5 to levels of significance that have been identified in
6 your report.

7 Probably -- and you have already identified
8 this -- the most significant impacts are, in fact, the
9 visual impacts.

10 We recognize that we have no authority here in
11 this county at any jurisdiction level to impose upon the
12 Department of Corrections any conditions for the
13 building of the structure, if it should proceed.

14 But we think that there are measures that could
15 be taken to mitigate the impact of whatever is built
16 there that aren't even considered.

17 For example: The design that's proposed in the
18 draft EIR is, I believe, an off-the-shelf design. It's
19 a block house.

20 It is -- as referred to in prior hearings --
21 "butt ugly." And there ought to be some design features
22 that could be incorporated into that structure that will
23 make it, if it's -- I hate to use the word -- visually
24 more appealing.

25 You ought to be able to soften the lines of the

1 building by rounding them. You ought to be able to deal
2 with less massive scale so that the massing of the
3 building is less prominent.

4 And we would like you to use some architectural
5 creativity, if you're going to build a structure to make
6 it, at least to some degree, more visually appealing and
7 more consistent with the rest of the prison site.

8 Now we speak to the ambient light.

9 You indicate that those are significant and
10 unavoidable impacts. But that's only if you adopt a
11 standard approach to lighting.

12 You say you're going to hood the lights but
13 still, at the end of the day, the ambient lighting is
14 going to be effectively the same as having a sports
15 arena there lit at night for 365 nights a year.

16 And it will be seen everywhere in the region.
17 It has regional impact. And it is significant.

18 And there may be some other issues.

19 What if the wattage were reduced and you used
20 motion sensors and infrared-type of surveillance
21 equipment and technology?

22 In such a case, you could have significant
23 mitigation over what I consider to be and what we
24 consider to be standard off-the-shelf design.

25 Now, air quality concerns: CEQA does not

1 require you to study the use of or the creation of CO2.

2 Your study is adequate in analyzing pollutants
3 in the traditional list of NO2 and ozone and the rest --
4 and carbon monoxide.

5 But we think it's important in this day and age
6 that there be some analysis, even though not required by
7 CEQA, of CO2 and greenhouse gas effects with the
8 expansion of this project.

9 It will use significantly more energy and both
10 electricity and natural gas. Those do have regional and
11 national impacts on greenhouse gasses and CO2.

12 And while it isn't required by CEQA, we think
13 that you would do us and yourselves a service in
14 extending yourself and doing a more exhaustive analysis
15 to include the aspect of air quality.

16 Biologic resources: We consider your analysis
17 of the fence in terms of its impact on birdlife and
18 various endangered species as being inadequate.

19 You say they are unavoidable and perhaps they
20 are.

21 But you say that there won't be any significant
22 impacts because there aren't in the area of the
23 immediate site, birds and animals that are endangered in
24 any way.

25 But you all know that there will be raptors

1 that will be flying in the area who may, in spite of all
2 your best efforts, perch on the site and be
3 electrocuted. And for you to say casually that
4 because there are no such birds on the site and that no
5 migratory birds that are likely to be injured that it's
6 an unavoidable impact, that's not true.

7 We consider it a significant impact, not a less
8 than significant impact.

9 Water supply: You have already acknowledged
10 that at maximum capacity, the study shows that it will
11 have a significant impact insofar as Marin Municipal
12 Water District's own criteria for significant impact.

13 This is a serious fault in the draft EIR
14 because, while it's adequate in disclosing the
15 possibility of significant impacts, it presumes that a
16 desalinization plant will be built and does not study
17 what the impacts of such a desalinization plant to
18 supply the water might be.

19 That's a leap of faith. We do not know whether
20 we're going to have a desalinization plant. And for you
21 to just casually kiss that off and not analyze it is a
22 mistake.

23 Lastly, on electricity and natural gas: The
24 CDC, we believe, should serve as an example of state of
25 the art energy efficient design and material

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1 technologies, as some other state facilities have done.

2 New standards pursuant to Assembly Bill 970
3 adopted in November, 2003 should be reflected throughout
4 the existing San Quentin site as well as incorporated
5 into this project design.

6 There is no discussion in your EIR about trying
7 to be energy neutral.

8 There is an opportunity here for you to put
9 photovoltaics. And that hasn't been analyzed as of the
10 project implementation and mitigation measures.
11 And we would urge you to do so.

12 Thank you.

13 -- and an associate of mine from the Marin
14 Conservation League will later comment on the
15 transportation element.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. DANIELS: All right. Thank you very much,
18 Mr. Roberts.

19 Next we have Jack Wilkinson with Marin
20 Association of Realtors.

21 MR. WILKINSON: Good evening. My name is Jack
22 Wilkinson. I'm past President of the Marin
23 Association of Realtors.

24 And I appreciate this opportunity to speak to
25 you tonight on behalf of our more than 1550 members.

1 The proposed expansion of San Quentin Death Row
2 facilities is the wrong thing to do at the wrong place
3 and at the wrong time.

4 And we call upon the Governor Schwarzenegger to
5 do the right thing and terminate this expansion plan
6 before it's too late.

7 Here's why: Given the tough economic times the
8 State is going through, the 220 million dollars to
9 expand this prison could certainly be used to address
10 more pressing problems.

11 Considering the fact that so few people are
12 executed at San Quentin each year, this expansion
13 proposal means that we will be building one of the most
14 expensive waiting rooms in the United States.

15 Indeed, people have a greater chance of being
16 killed on local highways than they do on Death Row.

17 Proceeding with the expansion proposal will be
18 throwing away a golden opportunity down the drain. At
19 San Quentin, we have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to use
20 the site for better and higher purposes, many of which
21 have the potential to generate revenue and taxes, to
22 have local and state governments, local cities,
23 communities, local projects and economies.

24 Over time, the revenues generated from the site
25 could more than make up for the cost to build a

1 replacement prison elsewhere in the state.

2 The state should be more creative in examining
3 other prison alternatives. For example: Why can't
4 non-Death Row inmates be transferred to other prisons
5 and a Death Row only facility be built elsewhere in
6 California where construction and other costs are more
7 reasonable than in Marin?

8 There is no magic in keeping the prison in
9 Marin. Indeed, some parts of the country regard prisons
10 as economic development projects that can create jobs
11 and stimulate the local economy.

12 Other communities in California should be
13 surveyed to see which ones would like to have this
14 prison relocation in their area.

15 It is not too late to prevent this costly,
16 flawed and wasteful expansion project from going
17 forward.

18 We still have time to do the right thing.
19 Let's do it. Thank you.

20 MS. DANIELS: Thank you.

21 Next, we have Anne Laird-Blanton. Am I
22 pronouncing that correct?

23 MS. LAIRD-BLANTON: No, but that's all right.
24 You're not the first. Thank you.

25 I'm here as secretary of the California Council

1 of the American Institute of Architects.

2 I am chair of the San Rafael Design Review
3 Board. I am a resident of Spinnaker Point, which is,
4 sort of, around the bend from San Quentin.

5 And I am actually the future president of the
6 AIA San Francisco Chapter.

7 First, what I want to really say is that we
8 totally support the comments of our elected officials
9 earlier this evening.

10 The American Institute of Architects and their
11 8,000 plus members in the State of California have been
12 lobbying Joe Nation for years with regard to the San
13 Quentin property and the opportunities here for light
14 rail and transportation and affordable housing and doing
15 so many more things that Marin County so desperately
16 needs than expanding a prison facility.

17 I am not here to object to creating a better
18 life for people in prisons. Architects design prisons.
19 However, I think that what you have shown in your draft
20 EIR report hopefully was not designed by an architect
21 because it's a very, very poor example;

22 And that if any buildings were to be built on
23 that site, there is such a tremendous opportunity to do
24 something so much greater and so much better than what
25 you have been showing us.

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1 Again, to second what other people have said,
2 you can certainly look at energy conserving issues.

3 There are mandates from the State in terms of
4 public buildings. They may not include prisons. I'm
5 not aware of that.

6 But I know they include schools and hospitals
7 in terms of their design and the quality of those
8 designs in terms of enhancing the environment.

9 And I think prisons should certainly do the
10 same thing.

11 The issues around lighting, I mean, the Design
12 Review Board in San Rafael reviewed the Rod and Gun Club
13 within the last year, who wanted to just add lighting to
14 their parking lot.

15 And we gave them such a hard time about
16 providing statistics in terms of the impact of that
17 lighting on people coming over the San Rafael Bridge and
18 the impact on the water.

19 And I don't think that you have come anywhere
20 close to addressing those impacts in terms of your AIR
21 statement. Also, issues around the marsh land:

22 Marin County is known for its environmental
23 sensitivities. And the surrounding marsh lands and the
24 water area was not even addressed to the extent that I
25 know of in terms of the EIR and really needs to be

1 looked at much more thoroughly.

2 Considering alternatives, I mean, it's really,
3 really important.

4 We have a very, very public process in Marin
5 County that involves a lot of people in terms of looking
6 at issues and developing the Vision Plan.

7 And architects have been very involved in
8 helping that. And to not look at all those alternatives
9 that have been proposed and that are out there and that
10 are available, I think is a serious loss and flaw on the
11 part of the EIR.

12 I believe there are other architects here to
13 address some other issues. That would be all of my
14 comments. Thank you very much.

15 MS. DANIELS: Thank you.

16 Next we have Jody Lewen. She's with the Prison
17 University Project.

18 MS. LEWEN: Hi. My name is Jody Lewen.
19 I am the director of the college program at San Quentin
20 and the Prison University Project, which is a non-profit
21 that supports the college program and works and, sort
22 of, advocates for higher education in prisons throughout
23 the State of California, which is what I'm currently
24 devoting my life to.

25 I just want to make a couple of comments on,

1 sort of, what I see going on here, what's at stake.

2 I am going to take a position on the question
3 of construction but also just bring up a couple of other
4 things briefly.

5 First of all, I want to say for the record, I
6 support construction, first of all, as a matter of
7 inmate and staff safety, but also precisely for the
8 reasons that a lot of people oppose the construction
9 because I believe it will delay closure of San Quentin.

10 And I just want to explain why I think delaying
11 the closure or preventing the closure of a prison is a
12 good idea.

13 It is certainly not a position I would ever
14 have imagined myself taking in a million years.

15 First of all, San Quentin is a model of
16 rehabilitative programs for the correctional system in
17 the State of California.

18 There are education, rehabilitation programs,
19 anger management, literacy all the way through college.
20 San Quentin is also the last -- has the only college
21 program in the state.

22 Those of us who are working in favor of
23 educational rehabilitative programs find themselves,
24 in the position, especially at San Quentin, where we are
25 often running the only program of that kind in the whole

1 system.

2 So when anybody wants to advocate in the State
3 in favor of specific programs, very often the programs
4 that are running at San Quentin are the only models
5 that they have to point to.

6 One of the reasons why San Quentin has so many
7 programs is because of the unbelievable pool of
8 progressive, well-educated volunteers that they have
9 access to here.

10 The college program at San Quentin runs
11 completely with volunteer labor. We have two paid staff
12 people but all the instruction and teaching assistants
13 are volunteers from UC Berkeley, Sonoma State, all over;
14 you know, St. Mary's College, San Francisco State.

15 So part of the importance of keeping San
16 Quentin open is so that it remains so that it continues
17 to exist as a model for rehabilitation in corrections in
18 the State of California and in the country.

19 But it's also incredibly vital as a tool for
20 educating the public.

21 One of the things that happens when you run --
22 particularly volunteer programs in a prison, is that you
23 end up bringing people in to participate who would
24 otherwise in a million years, not only never set foot in
25 a prison but know anybody, personally, who was doing

1 time in prison or who had ever done time in prison.

2 The social and political implications of that
3 are extremely, extremely important.

4 And in a sense, I find it really interesting
5 that this room and the way in which we have all been
6 brought together, I think we should pause for a moment
7 and reflect not just the issue at hand but the political
8 potential of that.

9 I mean, in a sense you could say that there is
10 a reason why we're all in this room thinking about this
11 prison and thinking about this population.

12 And I think we should try to look at that in
13 terms of what we can do with that, especially this week.

14 I think we should really think seriously about
15 what potential there is for people collaborating in the
16 service of the public good.

17 I would just say that it's a tool for
18 education, above all else, about the humanitarian
19 disaster which this prison system represents.

20 And I don't really know how to express that
21 except to state it as fact. We have in California alone
22 165,000 prisoners.

23 In the United States we have over two million
24 prisoners. We have a higher incarceration rate than any
25 other country in the world.

1 It's a disaster. The children of prisoners
2 have more than 50 percent chance of going to prison
3 themselves. It's a generational problem. It's an
4 unbelievable drain on resources.

5 It's a waste of human life. People complain or
6 are disturbed by the over 200 million dollar price tag
7 on this construction project.

8 I would just point out to you that keeping
9 8,000 prisoners in prison for ten years costs you
10 roughly that amount.

11 You're doing that every day. You're burning
12 through that money every day, just by incarcerating
13 people for insanely long periods of time for insane
14 reasons very often.

15 And I guess I would just say, sort of, briefly,
16 that I think that if everybody here really understood
17 what actually is going on in the system, that they would
18 stop what they were doing and try to have an impact on
19 it.

20 But I guess what I would just -- the point I
21 would make is also that this prison constitutes an
22 opportunity. It's a point of intervention for this
23 community and for this county to get involved in this
24 issue.

25 And I do believe that the issues that it

1 contains make everything else pale in comparison.

2 And then, in conclusion, I would just also
3 propose that if you want to consider modification of
4 your construction plan, that you try to come up with a
5 design that would allow after, say, ten years, reuse of
6 these buildings as -- what do I care? -- a hospital, an
7 opera house, affordable housing;

8 And that you work in the meantime to eliminate
9 the death penalty, which would make this housing
10 obsolete, okay?

11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. DANIELS: Thank you. We've got a
13 representative here from the Marin Architectural
14 Community? Am I saying that right?

15 Is that person here? Elida?

16 MS. SCHUJMAN: That's me.

17 MS. DANIELS: Could you please spell your name
18 for us?

19 MS. SCHUJMAN: It's E-l-i-d-a D-o-l-d-a-n
20 S-c-h-u-j-m-a-n.

21 MS. DANIELS: Thank you.

22 MS. SCHUJMAN: I'm a local architect in Marin
23 County. I'm a member of the AIA. And I do represent
24 some of the members of my architectural community as
25 well as clients and neighbors, who have given opinions

1 about San Quentin.

2 I want to let you know that I attended some of
3 the workshops that were organized on the Vision of San
4 Quentin.

5 I attended three of them. I wish I had
6 attended all of them. And that way I saw Jody. And I
7 think that some of her and some of the people who work
8 for San Quentin, they sort of elevated my understanding
9 of what is going on and the need to educate and the need
10 to provide services for that community.

11 But that said, what I think that I support and
12 the people that I talked with support is a small
13 facility for rehabilitation in the area, not a
14 full-blown prison, like the one you're proposing.

15 I am mostly concerned about problems that we
16 could have in Marin County that could be, like, if we
17 tomorrow have a tremendous earthquake in the Bay Area,
18 we're going to need a good access to our community.

19 Our county has shifted so that the center of
20 the county is pretty much within the San Rafael area and
21 the San Quentin area.

22 The site in San Quentin provides a tremendous
23 access, a water access. And if we were to have an
24 earthquake, we're going to need that access.

25 We're going to need to use the waterways to

1 move back and forth. That site is a fantastic site to
2 have an emergency hospital, to be able to house our
3 people who are going to protect us, like, the fire
4 department, nurses, doctors.

5 So it's a good place for that kind of housing
6 and that kind of services.

7 So what I would like to urge you is that not
8 look at it only from the point of view of what you need
9 to solve the problems for your own community as a prison
10 community but also to look at it as what is important
11 for the community where you are taking part of.

12 Because although you have the rights to decide
13 whatever you wish, because that is the mandate that you
14 have from the Assembly and the Governor, still we are
15 neighbors.

16 And that comes down to some of the people today
17 talking about the lighting.

18 So that's another example. So what I'm asking
19 you here, what I am asking from you is that you would
20 consider how we can work the situation where we can be
21 good neighbors and consider our future needs, not only
22 just for us but for the whole Bay Area.

23 That you very much.

24 MS. DANIELS: Thank you. And next I have a
25 gentleman from the -- Anthony. And he's with the

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1 American Institute of Architects?

2 MR. CATSIMATIDES: Architects.

3 MS. DANIELS: Yes.

4 MR. CATSIMATIDES: You see, architects have
5 really long last names.

6 MS. DANIELS: Yes. Could you spell that for
7 us? I would really appreciate it.

8 MR. CATSIMATIDES: So my name is Anthony
9 Catsimatides, C-a-t-s-i-m-a-t-i-d-e-s.

10 MS. DANIELS: Thank you.

11 MR. CATSIMATIDES: I have just taken up half of
12 my time. Thank you very much for allowing us to speak.

13 I represent the American Institute of
14 Architects Marin Task force. I would like to start by
15 saying that we're going to just present some general
16 comments here and we will be presenting some more
17 detailed analysis later in writing.

18 We would like to support some of the comments
19 made by Joe Nation, Steve Kinsey, the gentleman from the
20 Marin Conservation League and others.

21 We generally oppose the expansion of San
22 Quentin Prison and support alternate land use
23 opportunities for the site, such as housing,
24 transportation, recreation as well as possibly small
25 rehabilitation facilities.